

The Library Assistant :

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The March General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8th March, at 7.30 p.m., at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1, when an address will be given by **J. Bulman-Smith, Esq., M.A.**, on "Books for the Blind: their production and circulation." The chair will be taken by the Secretary and Librarian, Miss Olive Prince.

In view of the increasing importance of this subject, coupled with Mr. Bulman-Smith's knowledge of it, the Council hopes that there will be a large attendance. Candidates for the forthcoming examinations in library routine are reminded that the subject figures in the syllabus of that section. Assistants are further reminded that the National Library is situated immediately opposite the reorganized Great Smith Street Library, to which we referred last month.

The Junior Section will meet at 6.30 p.m. The meeting will take the form of an informal discussion on "Assisting the Readers," which will be opened with three five-minute papers by Miss Burden, Bethnal Green, Miss Salmon, Hackney, and Mr. Thomas, of Poplar.

EDITORIAL.

Next Council Meeting.—The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 22nd March, at 7 p.m., at the National Library for the Blind.

The Benevolent Fund.—Once again the Council has pleasure in recording its indebtedness to our friend, Mr. Charles Welch, for his thoughtfulness in nominating the Benevolent Fund of the L.A.A. to receive a grant of Ten Guineas through the Cutlers' Company. Mr. Welch's kindness and thoughtfulness in this matter is all the more appreciated by reason of the fact, which we deeply regret to learn, that he has been in ill-health for some considerable time. We are sure that all our members will join with us in thanking Mr. Welch for his continued interest in the Association, and in wishing him a speedy return to his wonted health.

A Summer School in London.—We have received particulars of a Summer School to be held in London under the auspices of the School of Librarianship from the 17th to the 29th of July. The programme is an attractive and instructive one, for, in addition to the formal lectures, there will be discussions and afternoon visits and excursions to libraries and places of interest, such as the Houses of Parliament, Windsor Castle, etc. Fuller particulars will be available later, but we make this early announcement in order that readers who are interested may note the dates. The fee for the whole course will be £2 2s., and arrangements are in progress for providing accommodation at the College Hostels.

Mr. E. G. Rees.—The unanimous resolution of the L.A.A. Council to confer the Association's Honorary Fellowship on Mr. E. G. Rees was carried into effect at the February General Meeting, when the President, Mr. J. D. Stewart, presented to Mr. Rees a framed certificate recording the fact that the distinction had been conferred on him in recognition of his long service to the Association. In making the presentation, the President referred to the work that Mr. Rees had done for the Association over a long period of time, and especially in its early days. Mr. Rees replied briefly, thanking the Association for the honour it had done him, and wishing it every success in the days that lay ahead.

The Reconstruction Proposals.—The provisional recommendations of the Reconstruction Committee, as printed in our last issue, were discussed at the February General Meeting, and

on the whole received general approval. It was recognised that the real difficulty lay in the financial soundness of the recommendations, and it was accordingly resolved: "That in view of the considerable misapprehension regarding the finances of the scheme, consideration be deferred to enable a full financial statement to be added; and, further, to endeavour to hold a joint meeting (at a date prior to the June Annual Meeting of this year) consisting of one delegate from each Branch, together with the members of the Council's Reconstruction Committee (*i.e.*, the officers, and Messrs. A. E. Cummins and W. B. Thorne)."

Hospitality Received.—We desire to place on record our sincere appreciation to Mr. Alderman Jefferson Hogg, O.B.E., the Mayor of Chelsea, for his cordial address of welcome to the Association at its last meeting; also to Mr. J. H. Quinn, the Chief Librarian, for the hospitality so thoughtfully provided at the end of the meeting.

The February Junior Meeting.—The meeting of the Junior Section was held at Chelsea prior to the ordinary meeting. Miss E. M. Exley, of Plumstead, in an impromptu speech on "The Junior Section, what it is and what it may become," put forward some very original ideas, upon which there was a good discussion. During the meeting there was a constant circulation of views between members, many of which it is intended to put into operation at once.

Central Library for Students.—Will our readers kindly note that the Central Library for Students has removed from 20, Tavistock Square, at which we have had several interesting meetings, to fresh premises at Galen Place, Bury Street, close to the British Museum? We are glad to learn that the library here finds "the ample accommodation that it has long desired," and hope that the Committee will now see its way to fill the office of librarian, which has been too long vacant.

Bethnal Green.—We are interested to see that the Bethnal Green Borough Council has had under consideration tenders for the adaptation of Bethnal House for public library purposes. The Library Committee recommends the acceptance of a tender for £23,197.

Fife Rural Library Scheme.—We note that the Fife Education Committee has a rural library scheme in operation, and that the librarian is Miss Helen C. Gray, formerly, we believe, of Dunfermline.

The St. Martin's Library.—We regret to learn that the well-known St. Martin's Lane Library was closed on 11th February. In view of the extreme value of this library to business men and journalists, it is hoped that a new site will be speedily found near by.

Warwick's County Librarian.—Truly the ways of county councils are past finding out. According to the *Coventry Standard*, the Warwickshire Education Committee recommended that the librarian's salary should be increased from £350 to £375 as from April next. One alderman, in objecting, said that "if the present librarian wished to go elsewhere an advertisement for a successor would bring in at least 100 applicants." We hope not! Another alderman: "They would, if necessary, find hundreds of ex-officers who could easily undertake these duties." Is this Warwickshire's recognition of Mr. Duncan Gray's refusal of the Kent Librarianship at £400?

Mr. R. W. Parsons.—We cannot allow Mr. R. W. Parsons to retire from the Honorary Secretaryship of our Yorkshire Branch without expressing our appreciation of his work for the Branch in the past years. The activity of the Branch, which is known to all our readers, is no doubt very largely attributable to Mr. Parsons' enthusiasm and personality. He has held the secretaryship at a very difficult time, but his business capacity, tact and ability have brought the Branch safely through to its present state. We are glad to know that the Branch will still have the benefit of Mr. Parsons' advice as a member of its committee.

The North-Eastern Branch.—We are glad to see that our North-Eastern Branch is recovering its former vigour and that the meeting recently held, of which a report appears in this issue, was so successful. May we appeal to all assistants in the north-eastern area to rally round Mr. Briggs, the Honorary Secretary of the Branch?

Anglo-American Relations.—We should like to see something done to bring together the library workers of America and ourselves. Misunderstandings will sometimes arise, and the geographical distance by which we are separated, and the consequent absence of exchange of opinion, tend to magnify and distort them. May we hasten to say, then, that for our part, we have the greatest admiration for American librarianship and librarians, for it is beyond dispute that no country has done so much to promote the library idea as America.

Two cases that may cause misunderstanding and involve controversy are brought to our notice this month. In the

February *Library World* is a letter from the Secretary of the Children's Libraries Section of the A.L.A., regretting the "rather bitter tone towards the pretensions of American librarians," and then expressing the wish that "we English and American librarians might know one another better." With this last remark we are in most cordial agreement; would that we might.

The other case arises out of a remark made by the Secretary of the Library Association at University College to the effect that American librarians were seeking positions in English libraries. This has called forth a letter in the February American *Public Libraries* asking the reason for this desire on the part of Americans at a time when there is not a dearth of library workers in England as there undoubtedly is in America.

The letter is opportune, for we have had recently some correspondence with a friend in the American library service as to the possibility and practicability of placing some of our college-trained—and other—assistants in American libraries, in which case, of course, it is quite reasonable to expect that Americans who care to do so, should have the opportunity of entering our own service. We wonder whether any of our readers at home or in America would care to offer an expression of opinion on the matter? There was certainly soundness in the plea made recently at an L.A.A. Council Meeting for the establishment of an International Association of Library Workers; it would facilitate this interchange of assistants.

Anyhow, we hope very sincerely that both we and our American cousins will continue to pull together for the uplifting of librarianship from the merely insular or national point of view. As the writer of the first letter referred to truly remarks, "If we of the professional classes, especially of the library profession, do not try to help good feeling between England and America, what hope is there left in the world?"

Women as Librarians.—The attention of our readers is drawn to the public lecture to be given at University College by Miss Marian Frost, F.L.A., on Wednesday, 15th inst., at 5.30 p.m., entitled "Women as Librarians and Library Assistants." As this is a subject that must interest a large number of our readers, we hope that it will be well supported. No tickets are required, and there is no charge for admission.

Examination Essays.—Some candidates for the forthcoming examination in Cataloguing appears to be in doubt as to the scope of the essay. By request, we approached the Secretary of the L.A., who informs us that students are expected to

confine themselves to the catalogues of the imaginary library; form of catalogue, printing of handlists, etc., must all be taken into account.

The essays in sections 2 and 5 are as follows: (2) "An annotated bibliography of book-trade bibliographies from 1800." (5) "The advantages and disadvantages of unifying by counties all the public and rural libraries of Great Britain."

Salaries.—March is always a fateful month for municipal officers, but this year it appears to be particularly so. The urgent need for national economy coupled with the gradual fall in the cost of living are militating against increased salaries. The unfortunate thing from our point of view is that the authorities who have in hand the revision of salaries persist in comparing present salaries with those in operation in pre-war days, which is, of course, the reasonable thing to do in other branches of the municipal service. They forget, however, that on account of that crippling rate limitation, nearly all library assistants were then paid inadequately. We hope that authorities who are determining post-war salaries will bear this in mind.

LIBRARY FINANCE.

By J. H. McCall, F.S.A.A., *Borough Accountant, County Borough of Croydon.*

(Concluded from page 28.)

Petty Cash Expenditure.—Petty cash expenditure should be kept upon what is known as the Imprest system, an amount being drawn and handed to the Librarian, who enters it on the debit side of his petty cash book. Before each Committee meeting, the petty cash account should be balanced and an account presented to the Committee for the exact amount which has been spent. A cheque would be drawn and handed to the Petty Cashier, thus placing him once again in possession of his original advance. There is nothing unusual about this petty cash book, but I would impress upon you that no receipts of any kind whatever in respect of fines, replacements, or sales of old paper should be taken to it, and on the other hand, no expenditure should be included in it which should be passed through as an ordinary account to the Committee.

It sometimes happens, however, that a librarian requires amounts for immediate payment which cannot be conveniently disbursed out of petty cash. I will mention two: expenses in connection with attendance at conferences, and moneys required for immediate payment to second-hand booksellers who cannot afford to wait for their money. I cannot lay down any rule as to the method of dealing with these two items, but I can at least state how the difficulty is met in the Borough of Croydon. The Chief Financial Officer has an account out of which all urgent payments may be disbursed, and on the application of the librarian, a cheque is handed to him drawn on this account, the matter being adjusted at the next meeting of the Committee. In my opinion this is the most satisfactory way of dealing with it, and has the effect of keeping the advance for petty cash expenses down to the minimum.

Branch Libraries.—The procedure I have outlined for a Chief Librarian might reasonably be followed by the branch librarian in respect of his own department, with the addition that the Chief Librarian should require returns to be furnished at frequent intervals of the progress of expenditure at the Branch, this being a very effective method of exercising control over departments which are situated at some distance.

Miscellaneous Income.—A proper account should be kept of all the amounts received so that it may be properly verified by the Finance Department of the Corporation.

(a) Sale of paper, where the quantity to be disposed of is large. The proper course is to obtain tenders and to sell to the highest bidder. A record of the tenders and the correspondence in connection therewith should be filed for reference.

(b) Letting of Halls. The price to be charged would be in accordance with the scale fixed by the Committee, and in connection therewith a proper register should be kept which should form the basis for rendering the accounts through the Finance Department.

(c) Book Replacements, etc. The charges for lost books are assessed by the Chief Librarian, and in every case a receipt should be given for monies received, the form being that of carbon manifold books.

All amounts received should be paid in weekly to the cashier of the Finance Department.

(d) Fines. Fines are imposed according to the rules of the library for everdue books. These fines are very small, varying from one penny to fourpence, and perhaps form the most difficult item to deal with in the administration of a busy library. It has been found to work well to give the borrowers

tear-out printed receipts when they pay fines. These receipts, if they are consecutively numbered, can quickly be added up for the purpose of balancing the cash in the till. This system in itself will give a complete record of what has been received, which can be periodically examined by the internal audit clerk of the Corporation. It is necessary to have a notice in a prominent place asking borrowers to see that they obtain a receipt for all money paid to assistants. I do not know of any system which will prevent petty defalcations. If I were a Chief Librarian, I would keep a chart, showing the takings in respect of fines, with the object of ascertaining variations which cannot be explained by the increase or decrease in the number of borrowers.

Estimates for New Libraries.—Where the Council have under consideration the erection of a new library, it is necessary to prepare reliable estimates of the cost of the site, buildings, equipment, and probable running expenses, and in this respect the librarian will work in conjunction with the Financial Officer of the Corporation in supplying reliable data in order to obtain the information.

I think that if I have not exhausted the subject of library finance, I have, perhaps, touched upon every phase of it, and I should like, in conclusion, to refer to the Annual Report prepared by the librarian. This Report, although it contains the accounts prepared and published by the Financial Officer, generally contains as an appendix a summary of income and expenditure arranged in a slightly different order. The expenditure is subdivided under Library Services and Fabric Charges, and against the total of each head of expenditure is given its percentage to the total expenditure: this throws out quite clearly that the percentage in many cases in respect of salaries is the highest. In the general statistics is given the amount of rate in the pound represented by the library net expenditure, and the cost of the library service per inhabitant, and the total cost of the library per inhabitant. These two latter items, of course, relate to the annual cost. This information suffers because it is merely stated in a summary of general statistics, and if I may say so, I think it advantageous to the librarian to work up such information in the body of his report. It is a debatable point as to whether the stock of books and fixtures should be valued for the purpose of stating them on the Balance Sheet and I should like to have some expression of opinion from you, specially in regard to books. In some cases it is the practice to debit the asset account with all purchases and write off 10 per cent. annually for depreciation.

THE BRANCHES.

NORTH EASTERN BRANCH.

THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT DISCONTENT.

A meeting of the North Eastern branch was held at Sunderland on Wednesday, January 18th, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Pearson, F.L.A., of the Reference Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr. J. A. Charlton Deas gave the members a cordial welcome. Seeing that both an influenza epidemic and a snow-storm were raging on that date, an attendance of twenty-two was very satisfactory.

A "Talk on some Egyptian antiquities" was given by Mr. T. Russell Goddard, F.L.S., Deputy Curator. The antiquities discussed were from the British School of Egyptology, and were on exhibition at the time. Mr. Goddard was heartily thanked for providing an instructive and deeply interesting half-hour.

"Thoughts on the Present Discontent" was the subject of an address by the Honorary Secretary of the Branch. He did not confine himself to the present condition of the Branch, or of the L.A.A., but went afield into the discontented condition of society in general, and traced it down to the Branch and to the individual. He asked his audience to think historically. History could teach us much of how men had met and overcome conditions similar to the present; and hope was to be found in the fact that the nation had emerged from those bad times strong and progressive. It was possible, the speaker said, to leaven the mass of discontent by personal happiness and content. Happiness was of the spirit, and the spirit, if cultivated, would always rise superior to mundane conditions and flourish in spite of them. This more spiritual condition radiated and spread to find many contacts, and carried on the leavening process. This was the divine discontent. Let us rather seek that.

"The thirst to know and understand,
A large and liberal discontent,
These are the goods in life's rich hand,
The things that are more excellent."

Interest in one's work brings happiness at least during work-hours. A deeply interested assistant would arouse interest amongst his colleagues, and the interest would spread to the Branch. A branch was as healthy as the enthusiasm of its members made it, just as the human body was as healthy as all its parts. The speaker went on to make a strong appeal for active interest, even if only critical, and urged members to give up expecting something for nothing: to realise that the world was still the same old place, and now that the post-war millenium was proved to have been only a dream, to get down to solid work as the nearest way to a heaven of one's own.

These remarks were intended to lead up to a discussion of the condition of the Branch, the apathy of members, the futility of the L.A.A., and other things germane. The meeting developed a healthy critical mood which augurs well for future activity, in some form or other. A good discussion followed. The result was that the Branch weathered the storm of criticism, at least for the present; but the Branch has to prove during the current year that it was worthy of support. Those who feel the necessity of a professional alliance of

library assistants did not doubt that the Branch would be able to justify itself. It would have to be clearly understood, however, that every one should see the object of the Association from the same view, and not expect things from it that it never intends nor has the power to give. The interest of one's work, and the interest of fellowship, these should make a sufficiently good return for membership.

To stimulate interest a tentative programme was arranged for the remainder of the year. It is already settled to hold the next meeting at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and a suggestion that a summer meeting be held at Durham (chiefly for the University Library), met with favour. The arrangements for the Annual Meeting were left over for consideration by the committee later. In the meantime, the desire of the meeting was for a thorough tackling, at the successive meetings this year, of such affairs as were brought forward—help towards making the L.A.A. more generally interesting; towards making "The Library Assistant" more interesting; towards making the meetings of the branch more interesting; and to consider, at the end of the year, whether or not there should be a change in the constitution.

A good meeting concluded pleasantly with an informal "coffee and cakes," thoughtfully provided by the Sunderland staff.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

(LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT DIVISION.)

On Friday, February 10th, a most delightful meeting of the Division at the Free Church Centre, Arcade Buildings, Lord Street, Liverpool, was devoted to a series of short papers by members, suggesting practical methods by which public library activities could be extended or improved.

Numerous bright ideas were conceived in the fertile brains of the members, and a book prize was awarded to Miss A. M. Travis, B.A. (Liverpool), for her treatment of the possibilities of a municipal cinema. Nearly everyone now goes to the "pictures," Miss Travis said, but intelligent people are seldom entirely satisfied with what they see. They go because it is comparatively cheap, comfortable and restful, but too often they find many of the films dull or ridiculous; and they wonder why more sensible films could not be provided when there is apparently a demand for them. Film agents state that instructive films have been given a fair trial and have proved a failure. This failure, Miss Travis thought, was due largely to the sandwiching of a comparatively tame educational film between two feverishly exciting or ludicrously comic reels. Seen under other conditions, such "pictures" would probably arouse the interest they deserved. It was interesting to conjecture how a progressive and imaginative librarian could use this new instrument of popular education, and how it might be made to harmonize with the more conventional activities of a library.

As regards the subjects of the films, there would, of course, be the more obviously instructive type, such as pictures of far-off peoples and places, the habits of animals and insects, the exploits of explorers,

etc. There could also be film versions of well-known novels and plays. As for the co-relation of the cinema and the library, Miss Travis thought it was easy to imagine ways in which films could be made to popularise the books. Lists of books bearing on the subject could be projected on the screen. If a play or a novel were filmed, attention could be called to its presence in the library, and to other works by the same author. Expensive, newly-released films need not necessarily be shown. Consequently, the cost of running a library cinema could be kept considerably lower than that of an ordinary commercial house, and charges of admission could be correspondingly low.

An excellent little paper, submitted by Miss E. K. Jones (Liverpool), dealt very aptly with the great need for loyalty amongst librarians and assistants of all grades, and suggested several ways in which the true spirit of loyalty could be fostered. She considered that loyalty was essential in the following directions:—(1) loyalty to the institution, involving a defence of the library against criticism; (2) loyalty of juniors to seniors (and *vice versa*) and of all the members of a staff to each other, involving the suppression of disparaging remarks, especially in the presence of readers. Miss Jones recognised that it was impossible for people always to keep sweet tempered, but thought that a sense of loyalty would make for smooth working.

A delightful and characteristically humorous paper in verse, contributed by Miss E. O. Greenwood, touched lightly on almost every phase of library administration. It was very well received and afforded immense amusement to the audience. A few verses are quoted below:—

If I were Chief Librarian,
I wonder what I'd do!
The subject is attractive
And altogether new.

Increases would be annual,
And quite substantial too,
Promotion be by merit,
The proper thing to do.

No caps would evermore be seen
Adorning well-brushed head,
Nor collars soft, nor gaudy ties,
Nor boots of heavy tread.

Then I'd banish filmy blouses
And jumpers of georgette;
Have all the girls in navy blue,
For biz.—at any rate.

And when diseases—like the 'flu—
Attack the human races,
I'd send a man to every branch
To disinfect the places.

And then instead of Mellin's Food,
Grape Nuts and "Daily Mail,"
You'd see another advert. rise
By which their glories pale:

Come, use the Public Library,
And don't delay a minute.
At least you should give it a try—
There may be something in it."

And on the screens at picturedromes,
And theatre programme pages,
I'd have some snippy lib'ry ads.,
To show its advantages.

An instructive discussion followed in which the following took part:—Messrs. E. C. Wickens (Reference Library, Liverpool); R. Cochran (Walton and Fazakerley Branch Library); M. Jackson Wrigley (Liverpool Lyceum Library); F. J. Boardman (Wallasey Library); and J. T. Evans (Reference Library, Liverpool). The members were glad of the opportunity of welcoming Mr. F. J. Boardman as a new member of the Liverpool and District Division. Mr. Boardman, it will be remembered, was recently appointed Deputy Chief Librarian of Wallasey, from the Cardiff Public Libraries. A hearty vote of thanks to all members who contributed papers brought the evening to a close.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

Although only thirteen members of this branch were able to meet at Worthing on January 25th last, a very successful meeting must be recorded.

Tea, kindly provided by Miss Frost, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Worthing, having been partaken of, the members adjourned to her own office for the principal business of the day.

A magazine meeting had been arranged, and the reading of the nine articles sent in by anonymous writers provided not only great interest, but also at times, much amusement.

The papers having been read, a vote was taken as to the awarding of the two prizes of ten shillings and five shillings respectively.

Miss G. Dean, of Worthing, proved to be the author of a very well written "Appreciation of Rupert Brooke," and Miss Gerard, also of Worthing, secured the next largest number of votes for her article entitled "A Letter on South Coast Branch Affairs." Miss Gerard, however, preferred that the second prize should be awarded to the writer of the next best paper, and this was discovered to be Miss W. Fox, also of Worthing.

Two of the articles deserve special mention, although not prize winners, viz., "Charles Dickens" and "A Vignette," both excellent compositions.

This meeting having proved so successful, it was decided to hold a similar one at no distant date, when a much larger number of articles are certain to be sent in.

Miss Frost, the Worthing staff and the writers of the papers were accorded a hearty vote of thanks at the end of the evening. Those who returned by train also wish to place on record their appreciation of the thoughtfulness of their Worthing colleagues for the refreshments with which they were fortified ere going to the station.

It is hoped to hold the next meeting at the Eastbourne Public Library on Friday, May 5th.

ERNEST MALE,
Honorary Secretary.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the branch was held in Bradford on Wednesday, January 25th, by kind permission of Mr. Butler Wood, F.R.S.L. Members from Leeds, Huddersfield, Halifax, Batley and Brighouse assembled at the Commercial Library, and then proceeded to the Co-operative Society's Café, where the annual general meeting was held at 4 p.m. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed, and the annual report of the honorary secretary, along with the honorary treasurer's financial statement, were submitted and approved.

The honorary secretary reported receipt of the reconstruction proposals from the honorary secretary of the L.A.A., and the decision of the meeting was that a copy of the proposals be forwarded to each member of the Branch Committee for perusal, assimilation and comment thereon, in order that any communication from the branch shall represent the opinion of Yorkshire members generally. The president

(Mr. J. A. Butterfield) then announced the resignation of the honorary secretary (Mr. R. W. Parsons), which was received with genuine regret. Mr. W. Robertshaw was thereupon elected his successor. The result of the election of officers and committee for 1922 was as follows:—

PRESIDENT : Mr. J. A. Butterfield (Bradford).

VICE-PRESIDENTS : Mr. H. Goulden (Huddersfield).

Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds).

Mr. N. Treliving (Leeds).

HONORARY SECRETARY : Mr. W. Robertshaw (Bradford).

HONORARY TREASURER : Mr. W. Procter (Leeds).

COMMITTEE.

Miss M. Heap (Keighley).

„ Rhodes (Leeds).

Mr. A. Finney (York).

„ H. J. M. Maltby (Bradford).

„ E. Osborne (Sheffield).

„ E. Robertshaw (Bradford).

Miss A. Newsome (Batley).

„ M. V. Walker (Huddersfield).

Mr. F. Haigh (Halifax).

„ J. R. Rasmuss (Bradford).

„ R. W. Parsons (Bradford).

„ F. T. Sleight (Hull).

Members were afterwards entertained to tea by the Bradford Public Libraries staff. The remainder of the evening was taken up by a social and whist drive. Elocutionary, musical and vocal items were contributed by Miss Willey (Bradford), Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds), and Misses Milner and Orford (Bradford).

A resolution of thanks accorded to the Bradford staff for their hospitality brought the proceedings, and an enjoyable evening, to a close.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT (YORKSHIRE BRANCH).

Your committee have pleasure in submitting the fifteenth annual report for your approval. Economic conditions, and the still somewhat prohibitive travelling expenses, have limited the sphere of the branch's operations; but within those limitations it is hoped that the traditions of the branch have been fully maintained, and your confidence earned.

MEETINGS.

During the past year meetings have been held as follows:—January 26th, annual meeting in Leeds; May 16th, Bradford; June 1st, Brighouse; July 6th, ramble to Leathley; October 5th, Morley; November 30th, Leeds University. Your committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the efforts of all who so kindly co-operated

in the arrangement of these meetings—chief librarians, chairmen of committees, etc., and particularly are we indebted to the authorities of Leeds University for the privilege of meeting there, and of hearing Mr. Stephen Leacock lecture.

Addresses and papers were given during the year by :

Professor J. H. Priestley, D.S.O., B.Sc., F.L.S. (Leeds University). Address at annual meeting.

Mr. J. A. Butterfield (Bradford). Presidential address.

Mr. E. Judson (Bradford). "Desultory Reading."

Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds). "The Provision of Reference Libraries in Small Towns."

Sir Michael Sadler (vice-chancellor, Leeds University). Address of welcome to the university.

Mr. R. Ofor, B.A. (librarian, Leeds University). "The Problems of a University Librarian."

To these gentlemen our grateful thanks are due for their thoughtful and stimulating contributions to our educational programme.

Among the matters of outstanding importance which have claimed your committee's attention the most significant is the problem of reconstruction. In an age of so-called reconstruction it is not unnatural that the L.A.A. should consider its constitution and possible reorganisation; and to this end proposals were submitted to the branches for report, suggestions, etc. Careful consideration was given to the proposals of the L.A.A. Reconstruction Committee, and certain counter proposals and recommendations were made; and it is hoped that the final proposals will be in the hands of all members in the near future with a view to their approval at the forthcoming annual meeting of the L.A.A. in June next.

MEMBERSHIP.

The year commenced with a membership of eighty-three and ended with eighty-five. During the year four new members have been admitted, and two lost, Miss Ratcliffe (Leeds) resigning on the occasion of her marriage, and Mr. T. B. Priestley (Bradford) deceased. Amidst all the chances and changes of the strenuous time through which we have passed, and are passing, it is gratifying to report even a little progress; but it would be well to note that true progress cannot be expected without the continued loyalty and enthusiasm of the present members. Your committee trust, therefore, that they may not only count on your loyalty, but also on your hearty co-operation in their endeavours to increase the membership of the branch.

FINANCE.

Your honorary treasurer will submit to you a financial statement for the nine months, January to September, 1921. This has been necessary, and in accordance with a resolution passed by the council of the L.A.A., in order to make the financial year uniform throughout the association and its branches. Briefly, the income of the branch has been £25 18s., the expenditure £20 9s. 6d., thus leaving a balance of £5 8s. 6d.

J. ARTHUR BUTTERFIELD,
President.

R. W. PARSONS,
Honorary Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Dickens, Charles, the Personal History of David Copperfield : with critical appreciations, old and new. Half niger, 8s. 6d. net ; whole niger, 25s. net. (Cedric Chivers.)

For years librarians have been clamouring for real library editions of the standard works in English literature, and at last the wish seems likely to be gratified, for here, in such a book as the one now before us, we have a production that leaves nothing to be desired either in the matter of type, paper or binding.

The feature of this series of *Readers' Classics*, as they are called, is that not only is every volume a masterpiece of its kind, excellently produced, but that the educational and literary value of the book is enhanced by the introductory matter, comprising suggestive critical appreciations by the most authoritative writers. At the moment, four volumes of the series are ready : "David Copperfield" ; "Ivanhoe" ; "Vanity Fair" ; and "Essays of Elia," and others will appear at intervals, presuming, of course, that librarians support the project, as we believe they will.

The only suggestion we have to make is that the volumes should be illustrated. A Dickens, for example, without pictures loses half its value in many people's eyes.

The editorial work is in the hands of Messrs. G. K. Chesterton, Holbrook Jackson, and R. Brimley Johnson, and the well-known library binders, Messrs. Cedric Chivers, are responsible for the production and binding.

Oxford. Bodleian Library. Staff Manual, 1922.

We have spent a pleasant hour reading that most delightful of all professional annuals, the "Staff Manual" of the Bodleian Library for 1922. It is a publication that we should like to put into the hands of every junior assistant, because it lends a fitting and much needed dignity to librarianship, and shows the true perspective of those very small tasks which we sometimes regard as menial. At the beginning is a calendar, in which is set out the various duties to be carried out during the year, from the refilling of the fire buckets to the preparation of the annual report. The remainder of the volume is occupied with interesting details of the work carried out by the staff and of the methods of executing it. We commend the manual to all those of our readers who are not acquainted with it.

APPOINTMENTS.

S. A. FIRTH, Senior Cataloguing Assistant, Sheffield, to be Librarian, Ilkeston. Salary £208, with house, coal and light.

*R. W. LYNN, Senior Assistant, Portsmouth, to be a Senior Assistant, Cardiff. Salary £250.

Also selected : D. D. NICHOLS (Woolwich).

CHARLES NOWELL, F.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Norwich, to be City Librarian, Coventry. Salary £560.

Also selected: Messrs. DUNCAN GRAY (Warwickshire Rural), KENT (Glasgow), and SIDWELL (Coventry). Mr. Kent was prevented from attending, owing to illness.

*A. H. GILLGRASS, F.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Warrington, to be Rural Librarian, Cheshire. Salary £300.

Also selected: Miss R. E. BAKER, *H. GOULDEN (Huddersfield), Miss E. D. NEWBERRY (Nottingham), J. ORMEROD (Derby), and E. W. NEESHAM (Birmingham). The last mentioned withdrew.

*F. T. SLEIGHT, Senior Assistant, Hull, to be Deputy Librarian, Rochdale. Salary £250.

NEW MEMBERS.

A. T. AUSTING, STANLEY OVERAL, J. W. JOHNSTON, G. F. GASKIN (all of Walthamstow).

North-Eastern Branch: G. S. D. LINDSAY (Newcastle).

North-Western Branch: Miss J. BALLANTYNE (Bootle); Misses E. ATKINS, M. R. BALL, E. M. BUCKLEY, and A. S. ELLISON (all of Liverpool).
Associates: Misses D. E. EDWARDS and E. M. RAVENSCROFT (Liverpool).

[Subscriptions, if not already paid, should be forwarded to the Honorary General Treasurer, Mr. J. F. Hogg, Central Library, Lavender Hill, S.W.11. Branch members will please remit to their Branch Treasurers.]

L.A. Salaries Scale.—As we go to press we learn that a Salaries Scale has been published, as agreed between the L.A. and N.A.L.G.O., but we have no details.

Aberystwyth.—The Sixth Summer School of Library Service will be held at Aberystwyth from 31st July to 12th August. Inclusive fee £6.